

Eman^t. Bowen Sculp^t.

11633. f. 43

THE
C O C K E R:
A
P O E M.

IN
Imitation of Virgil's Third Georgic.

HUMBLY INSCRIB'D

TO THE
Honourable Society of Sportsmen

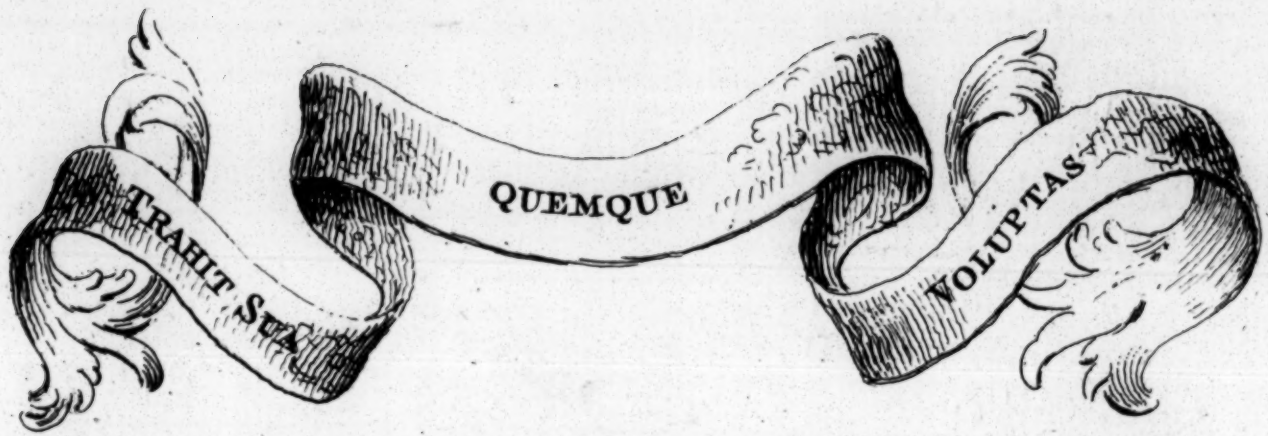
AT
GRANTHAM.

By Isaac Hallam.

Ingentes Animos angusto in Pectore versant.

Virg.

Stamford: Printed by Francis Howgrave, 1742.



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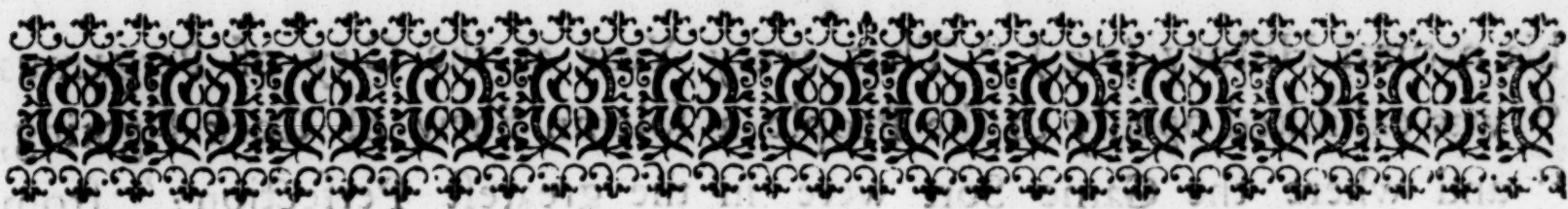
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The Dedication



THE
DEDICATION,
TO THE
Honourable Society of Sportsmen
AT
GRANTHAM.

GENTLEMEN,

AS the Diversion of Cock-Fighting is daily growing into Esteem, and has for several Years been my favourite Amusement, and also attended with a Series of Success, I humbly beg Leave to offer my Opinion towards the Improvement of the present English Breed, for tho' generally supposed a Diversion peculiar to this Nation, 'tis truly, of no modern Date, but divers Centuries ago practis'd in the Isle of Rhodes, and also at Pergamus, as appears by the following Quotation from Pliny the Historian, who says in the 10th Book and 21st Chapter of

A

his

The Dedication.

his natural History (viz.) “ That every Year at the City of Pergamus
“ was exhibited openly to the People a solemn Shew of Cock-Fighting,
“ and where the Game Sort were in the greatest Perfection; ” from
whence we may reasonably infer its Origin deriv’d, and which probable
Account methinks contradicts the common Opinion of their Degeneracy
abroad, and which I rather believe is owing more to improper Manage-
ment than any other Reason; so in order to propagate and establish the
genuine Kind, I have presum’d to offer the following Essay for your Ap-
probation, and consequently have address’d it to you as the most distin-
guishing Judges.

Tho’ notwithstanding these Sentiments in Breeding of Game-Fowl are
govern’d by the most strict Observations and Variety of repeated Tryals,
the only sure Means whereby to form a proper Judgment, yet, as it was
only design’d for an innocent Amusement to pass an idle Hour with, so
I flatter myself before you precipitately condemn it, that you will candid-
ly consider this Precept of Horace, (viz.)

—— Si quid novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti, si non, his utere mecum.

For since Gentlemen of the first Rank have encouraged the Diversion,
and are grown solicitous in Breeding, as being truly sensible they are
sooner furnished with a sufficient Number of Cocks than a compleat Stud
of Horses, and consequently as Cocking is attended with less Expence
than Horse-Racing, and likewise not so liable to Frauds, of which I am
well assur’d the modern Grooms have given the most flagrant Proofs;
perhaps this Attempt of mine, to promote a more curious Breed, may
induce and spirit up some more judicious Sportsman to accomplish what
I have but too cursorily handled.

Did

The Dedication.

Did Gentlemen of valetudinary Habits but consider that Hunting or Racing are too active and laborious Exercises for such as are of thin and emaciated Constitutions, I am apt to believe they would not so eagerly pursue such Diversion, so hazardous to their Health, and even frequently their Lives, especially as I am conscious a greater Share of Exercise attends the Breeding and Management of a Number of Fowl sufficient for any common Match than what the generality of Breeders are appriz'd of.

For 'till Gentlemen naturally take as much Pleasure in the Breeding Part as they do in the Fighting, 'tis certainly great Odds that they ever attain to or acquire any compleat Breed or Number of Fowl; since one Error committed in that Branch may even effect and ruin a whole Race, and consequently loose two or three Seasons in Breeding.

For what Method or Rules soever can avail if due Regard is not paid to this particular Care, (viz.) as Game-Fowl are frequently hatch'd under Dunghil Hens, it is incumbent, methinks, on the judicious Breeder to inspect and shyer every Seat of Eggs before the Time of Hatching, in order to prevent any other Sort from being casually laid amongst them, a Caution I am afraid too many have pass'd by as trifling and indifferent, and for want of which not improbably destroy'd many a compleat Breed, and surely this one Reflection shou'd prompt every Breeder's Inclinations to be strictly curious.

Tho' truly 'tis not only proper on that Account, but also to ease the Sitting Hen, in throwing aside those which are addle, and from being crowded with too great a Number, a Fault indeed too many Breeders are guilty of in the Winter Season.

The Dedication.

Thus, Gentlemen, if the Method I have prescrib'd be honour'd with your Approbation, I hope it will in some measure make amends for the Ruggedness and Ineligance of the Poetry; however, if it contributes but in any Respect to your future Diversion and Amusement, it will entirely add to the Satisfaction of

GENTLEMEN,

Your most oblig'd,

And devoted humble Servant,

Isaac Hallam.





THE
C O C K E R.
A
P O E M.

YE British Sons, and all ye tuneful Nine,
Propitious now your sacred Inf'ence join;
Whilst I, adven'trous Bard, presume to soar
With callow Wing, and trackless Paths explore ;

In

In Maro's heav'nly Strain sublimely raise

My artless Theme, and crown my daring Lays,

And tho' too rash I quote his sacred Name,

Let not my Muse the god-like Bard prophane,

Or shroud the Palm of his immortal Fame.

A Patriot Zeal now fires my grateful Heart,

To sing the warlike Cock, and Breeding Rules im-
part.

For oh ! what Debt Brittannia's Sons must owe,

Beyond whate'er these artless Lays bestow,

The

The warlike British Cock, whose valiant Race

*** Once blest'd the Land with Liberty and Peace.**

Attend

* The following Account, to which the preceding Lines allude, is recorded in some of our English Histories.

In early Times a foreign Enemy commencing a War, an English Gentleman then Resident at his Court happily procuring some Game Cocks, sent an Invitation to some of that Nation to partake of the Diversion, whose Unacquaintance with their undaunted Fierceness, and natural Enmity so surprizingly discouraged them, by suggesting those Talents to be equally or rather greater in the hardy Briton, that they immediately relinquish'd the Thoughts of War, and left us to reap the Advantage of their Cowardice by a settled Peace and Tranquility.

Attend ye Sportsmen, whose superior Sway
 A Sanction gives, and guide the genial Lay,
 Indulge a while the Poet's wand'ring Muse,
 And all the COCKER in the Bard infuse,
 Till I the Breeding Art presume to trace,
 And sing the warlike Genius of the plummy Race.

But first the Sire, propitious Muse, declare,
 Whose *Shape* distinguish with peculiar Care,
 Since

Since what the curious-form'd acquire in Height,

The disproportion'd loose by useless Weight,

For oft o'rematch'd the shapeless Pullen shew,

By Legs too short, and Forehands form'd too low.

High-bearing Fowl th' Advantage most acquire

To charge the Foe, and ward against his Ire,

Whilst Cocks that mope beneath the tow'ring Foe,

By lofty Springs unnerve their fruitless Blow.

B

Thus

Thus Duck-leg'd Fowl with curv'd or dinted Breast,

And Forehands short become the Sportsman's Jest.

The Shape approv'd and by the Muse display'd,

Shou'd like the conick Sugar-Loaf be made.

Whose taper Point shou'd nicely form the Tail,

And o'er the Breast the broader Part prevail,

While lengthy Forehands Sportsmen chiefly prize,

That in the Form of Rainbow circling rise.

The

The Feeder thus exulting Fondness shows,

And lur'd by Shape with Emulation glows,

When form'd like * BEAU his dext'rous Hand
displays

A fav'rite Cock, that vig'rous Life betrays.

Then wisely cull from all the Warrior Kind

A blooming Sire, that suits the Marks defin'd,

Full breasted form'd, yet taper, thin, behind,

In all the stately Pride of Nature drest,

With glitt'ring Plume, and florid youthful Crest,

B 2

Whose

* A favourite Cock of the Author's, so call'd from his curious Shape.

Whose nervous Limbs stretch'd o're the grassy
Plain,

His arch'd turn'd Neck and Corps robust sustain,

With Hawk-like Beak, and piercing watchful Eye,

Prompt to deceive, or ready to defy

His adverse Foe, when pitted in the Ring

They wounding clash, and flutter on the Wing,

Till Death alone their envious Wars compound,

And force the conquer'd Foe to bite the Ground.

Sing

Sing Muse the Cause, the fatal Source disclose,

Whence such dire Enmity remorseless 'rose.

When Nature first the warlike Cock design'd,

Venus and Mars, superior Infl'ence, join'd,

To swell his Heart and form his daring Soul,

Where Love and Jealousy tumultuous roll.

For soon as Love his youthful Breast inspires,

Indignant Rage his haughty Genius fires.

The

The tempting Fair he seeks with eager Pace,
And woo's her to him with peculiar Grace;
Now proudly struts, elate with martial Pride,
Now drops his Wings, and stalks along her Side,
Now boldly treads, and sooths the yielding Bride;
Then sounds Alarm, and jealous of his Foe,
Spleen, Rage, and Love, alternate Passions, glow:
Each am'rous Glance the daring Rival shews,
Or Step advanc'd, his jealous Wrath pursues.

For

For Love's Impulse, exempt of Reason's Aid,
In sensual Brutes is uncontroll'd obey'd ;
But god-like Reason, crown'd with ev'ry Grace,
Distinguish'd shines in Man's superior Race,
To calm his Passions and his Will control,
And form the Conduct of his nobler Soul.
Thus fir'd with Love and stung with proud Dis-
dain,
Th' imperious Chief intrepid stalks the Plain,
Whilst

Whilst scouring o'er the Lawn and verdant Meads,
His swelling Voice the furious Lion dreads.
The Cock exulting with elated Crow,
And Pinions founding dares the haughty Foe ;
Nor shuns the War, nor from his Rival flies,
But Victor reigns, or all disdainful dies.
Hence jealous Fears th' intrepid Warrior fire,
Incessant rage and future Wars inspire.

His

His Colour now remark ; the Best are said
 To be the Tawny, Black, the Grey and Red.
 The *Cuckoo* shun, a soft degen'rate Race,
 Which oft th' intrepid Foe reluctant face.
 Yet modern Sportsmen with Indiff'rence prize
 What colour'd Fowl you fight, so Dagger-heel'd
 they rise,
 And facing Danger spurn the threat'ning Foe,
 Swift to revenge returning Blow for Blow.

C

Thus

Thus form'd the *Sire* : Again, O Muse, display
Thy sacred Pow'r, and tune th' harmonious Lay,
Whilst I, presumptuous Bard, progressive rhyme,
The Season sing, and fix the Breeding Time,
When Nature prompts and vig'rous Spring con-
spires
To warm the circling Blood with genial Fires.

March, April, May, judicious Breeders find
The *only* Months to propagate their Kind.

Let

Let not too *small a Size* your Breed disgrace,

But timely warn'd, avoid the dwarfish Race.

The puny Strain will soon too languid grow

To dart the Heel, and spurn the threat'ning Foe :

Then fix betimes the Hens and blooming Sire,

Since early Fowl superior Size acquire.

For Autumn Chicks will scarce the Rearing pay,

So small the starv'ing Brood, so Duck-leg'd they ;

Which frequent vary from the Stock they grow,
For numb'd with Morning Dews their Limbs advance too slow.

Oft in three circling Years his sprightly Bloom
Impair'd we find by too great Length of Plume,
His ample Hack too loose a Texture wears,
And dangling o'er his Throat a Muff-like Plumage bears.

This if discern'd, no more increase his Breed,
But substitute Another in his stead ;

Left languid grown he balk the craving Hen,

Deceive your Fancy and you breed in vain ;

Tho' if the Sire in vig'rous Bloom appears,

And gayly plum'd, dread not his Length of Years.

The Hens indeed a longer Date I find,

Retain the Pow'r to propagate their Kind ;

And by judicious Sportsmen 'tis agreed

That on the *Female Strain* depends the nobler

Breed :

Nor

Nor did I once from * RUCKING Hens e'er
know

Diff'rence in Breed, which some pretend to shew.

But shun those Eggs where Sol's diffusive Rays

Dart thro' their Shells, and with Refulgence blaze,

For

* The Rucking of a Hen is a peculiar Cry for three or four Days before Sitting or Brooding her Eggs, and is only an Impulse of Nature, shewing her intense Desire of producing her Kind.

This some injudiciously suppose a State of Degeneracy, and the Reason they assign is, That her Eggs at that Time are remarkably smaller, but truly, they don't consider that the Egg is before impregnate, and the future Progress of the Chick has no Respect to the Size of the Egg, but only requires a proper Warmth to animate and increase it.

The Clucking of a Hen is also a distinguishable Note from the former, tho' not discernable till after Hatching, and is probably design'd to induce the young Brood to follow her, and covey together; and likewise to express her Tendernefs in Regard to their Sustenance and Safety.

For such the vital Pow'r extinct declare,
Will addle prove, and frustrate all your Care.
Thus curious Breeders by Inspection know
The forming Chick's impregnate Embryo,
'Ere Incubation half its Pow'r conveys
In rip'ning Life, and * *Shy'ring* this they Phrase.

As

* The Shy'ring of Eggs is perform'd in the following Manner, (*viz.*) the Hen having sat eight or nine Days, take an Egg in one Hand and hold it against the Light with the Crown or broad End uppermost, then place your other Hand on the Top or a little over it, and you will perceive it settl'd in the Shell, and if the Part so fall'n shews dark, it denotes a Bird ; but if clear or fluctuating and streak'd with Light, it implies the contrary.

As various Hens in diff'rent Shapes appear,
 So various Eggs a Form as diff'rent bear ;
 Impregnate Females in the * *Round* prevail,
 And those *Oblong* distinguish'd shew the Male.
 Preserve your Eggs, with latent Chick replete,
 From chilling Cold and too intense a Heat ;
 For each Extream impairs the vital Pow'r,
 And rip'ning Embryo's swell the Egg no more.

Nor

* 'Tis generally observ'd that the roundest Egg proves a Pullet, and the longest a Cock.

Nor let them long in one Position lie,
 But gently turn, and mark with cautious Eye
 The lower Part, and oft alternate move
 The upper down, and neather Part above,
 For in one Posture fix'd, the Curious say,
 The pond'rous Yolk's weak Ligaments decay,
 Which Egg no more prolifick Pow'r retains,
 But all unbrac'd a lifeless Mass remains ;

This * Nature shews, th' experienc'd Breeder's
Guide,

Left thro' the fluid White th' inclining Yolk subside.

The wond'rous Shell, concreted Humour, flows
From various Salts, that diff'rent Parts compose,
Whose concave Side a filmy Texture lines,
Cements the Whole, and all the Bird enshrines ;
Whose

* 'Tis frequently observ'd, during the Time of a Hen's sitting or brooding her Eggs, that she variously turns and removes them from one side of the Nest to the other, which Observation not improbably gave Rise to the approv'd Method of turning and moving them two or three Times a Week in the aforesaid Manner, as the most necessary Means for preserving them sound, especially when purpos'd for keeping any considerable Time.

Whose forming Life at first the White sustains,

But more advanc'd the grosser Yolk maintains.

When tort'ring Pangs the wracking Stone betray,

Or acrid Salts Life's purple Streams convey ;

When Reins inflam'd the turgid Vessels bind,

And ferous Parts no Percolation find,

Whence stagnate Urine forms intestine Strife,

And languid Nature drags on ling'ring Life,

Th' * alkalious Pow'rs, fair Health's restoring
Balm,

Abforb the pungent Salts, and oft their Fury calm.

Since various Natures diff'rent Fowl retain,

And by Instinct affect their kindred Strain.

:
Then

* Egg-Shells being clear'd from their Skins, dry'd, and finely powder'd, and taken the Quantity of a Drahm two or three Times a Day, are recommended by Decker as a peculiar Remedy in Nephritick Disorders attended with a Suppression of Urine. N. B. If a Decoction of Marsh-Mallows, or a Solution of Gum Arabick, an Ounce in a Quart of Water, be drank a Gill at a Time after each Dose of the Powders, it would probably contribute to their farther Efficacy.

Then fix, by Nature sway'd, a * *Sister Race*,

Whose Friendship join'd may court the Male's
Embrace ;

A motley Tribe may chance deceive your Care,

Since Eggs from various Hens such nice Resem-
blance bear.

Three sprightly Hens indulge the am'rous
Male,

Nor will, shou'd more be join'd, your Breeding fail.

Let

* The Difficulty and Hazard of distinguishing the respective Eggs of various Hens, and the uncertainty of the several sorts being equally Good, sufficiently shew the Imprudence of Breeding from a mixt Sort together ; and consequently a necessary Caution, to breed from a Sett of full Sisters.

Let Cocks with Pullets breed, and Stags with
Hens,

'Tis such whose Race will recompence your Pains;

Yet Cocks with Hens, if not by Age impair'd,

By modern Breeders chiefly are prefer'd,

Tho' Stags with Pullets join'd I frequent find

In Heels and Mettle too preserve their Kind,

And oft, when dipt in Blood, their Hearts exceed

The martial Fiercenefs of the aged Breed;

When

When dying too, our hopeless Thoughts deceive,

Kindled to Wrath their gasping Lives reprieve,

And to their adverse Foes swift Death bequeath ;

Of which my fav'rite Fowl, the * *Jarnil* Strain,

Beyond Dispute th' asserted Truth maintain.

Thus Want of Heels the Reason true declares

Their Breed declines, when Fowl advance in
Years,

Since

* A Brood Cock walk'd at one *Jarnil's*, to whose Breed the Appellation of *Jarnil* was given.

Since oft the youthful Breed more active are
And mettled prove, than fluggish ag'd, by far.

* Yet ne'er on MAINS let Stags be rashly
try'd,

But full grown Cocks th' important Match decide ;

For Stags tho' glowing more with martial Fire,

O'repow'r'd by stronger Cocks too frequent tire :

These

* A necessary Caution to avoid being deceiv'd in Stags, which are not so easily distinguish'd when early bred, and fought late in the Season.

These diff'rent Marks peculiar to the Race

Of Stags and Cocks, ye curious Sportsmen, trace ;

In Stags the Spurs a *rougher* Surface wear,

And circling round a Ridge distinctly bear ;

Unbent and *shorter* too the *blunter* Points appear ;

But those in Cocks more *taper* form'd we find,

Curv'd, *longer*, *smooth*, and of the horny Kind.

Breed near akin, nor cross too oft the Strain ;

Left by too frequent Change you breed in vain.

E

Nor

Nor scrup'lous shun, nor such Distinction heed,

What some erroneous style * *incestuous* Breed ;

By

* 'Tis doubtless an absurd Opinion to think any Breed incestuous that springs from the Brute Creation, and having read that the Race of Turkish Horses seldom degenerates if it is not adulterated by too frequently Changing, I was induc'd to make Tryal of the same Method in the Breeding of Game Fowl, and which probably would succeed as well in the Generation of Sheep and other Brutes, if not so idly perverted by the mistaken Notion of being *Incestuous*, however I have found it effectually answer in Poultry, and indeed recommend it as the most infallible Rule, to breed from Parent and Offspring, (viz) Father and Daughter, or Mother and Son, or Brother and Sister, which in the Sportsman's Phrase is term'd, *Full Blood*.

I have also known the Breed exceeding fine where the Brood Hens and Cock are all out of
a Hen

By crossing oft the Race degenerate grows,

And all the *Dunghil* propagated shows ;

Let Hens and Cock, to form your future Race,

From the same Hen their warlike Genius trace ;

E 2

Their

a Hen, but got by a different Cock, or *vice versa*, where the Brood Cock and Hens are got by the same Cock, but out of a different Hen, tho' I chiefly approve of the former ; the Hen's Strain being generally allow'd superior and more certain than the Cock's.

Their kindred Strains will nobler Blood inspire,
And all their Offspring crown with martial Fire :
Th' inverted Rule observe will oft prevail,
When Cock and Hens spring from one sprightly
Male :

Yet ne'er on *One* peculiar Strain rely,
But diff'rent Fowl with nice Distinction try ;
Three various Sorts sufficient Change you'll find
For twice ten Years to raise the nobler Kind ;

For

For when repeated Tryals shew the Race

To Mars devote, that Breed alone embrace,

Whose fatal Heels, enrag'd with Ire, impair

Some noble Part and Scenes of Slaughter bear,

When at each mousing Blow, or flying Spar

The hostile Chiefs engage in direful War ;

Since H E E L E R S more distinguish'd Merit
claim,

Than Cocks ennobl'd with superior Game.

Shou'd

Shou'd e'er a spurious Cock your Pullen tread,
Reject their Eggs till *Four* or *Five* are laid,
And then, Experience proves, tho' some deny,
A Change ensue, and the false Embryo die ;
The former Genius of the nobler Strain
A fresh reviv'd, and all restor'd again.
For since by changing Cocks we frequent find,
The Hen's prolifick Pow'r a while declin'd,

Imagine

Imagine not the whole connected Lay'r

The Taint receive, or so degenerate are,

For joint Consent the genial Fire must grace,

Or unprolifick proves the Male's Embrace :

Four Months I've known a blooming Hen to
lay,

Nor once indeed a Rucking e'er betray ;

And some, too vainly prejudic'd, advise

To wait that Time, more nice than truly wise.

Such

Such * *Notions* then ye Speculists disclaim,
 Since Nature's Laws th' Hypothesis condemn,

For

* As some Objection may arise from the Improbability of the preceeding Argument, I humbly beg Leave to transcribe a Passage from Mr. *Humphrey's* Translation of *Nature Display'd* Vol. 3. Page 308.

" No Body, says he, has hitherto been able to give any intelligible or satisfactory Account
 " concerning the Cause of this Principle of Fecundity in an Egg ; we only know in general,
 " that it results from the concurrent Act of two Animals, the one Male, the other Female.

Thus, as the Learned byas'd only by Theory, leave undetermin'd such nice Speculations ;
 so I presume it a reasonable Inference for the Support of my Opinion, since confirm'd by the
 Testimony of repeated Tryals, (viz.) that an Alteration of the Strain ensues from the Removal
 or Change of one Cock to another, tho' the prolific Pow'r continues for several Eggs after the
 first Cock is taken away, if no other immediately succeeds him.

However, to convince the Speculist, that his Hypotheses are repugnant to Practice, I humbly
 entreat the Curious would try the Experiment, as the only means to solve such inexplicable
 Difficulties.

For Practice join'd to Theory we find

Best forms the Judgement, and improves the Mind.

Since Errors oft deceive the Breeder's Care

Be strictly cautious and Mistakes beware ;

“ Distinguish all betimes with branding Fire,

“ To note the Tribe, the Lineage, and the Sire,

Nor e'er let Indolence so far prevail,

To charge your Mem'ry with the long Detail,

“ Dryd. Virg.

F

But

But let peculiar Registers declare

The martial Race, and various Kinds you rear ;

Which to reserve to raise the future Stock,

And which to battle with the warrior Cock.

By Practice taught, the modern Sportsman's
Guide,

Let *maiden Fowl* th' important Main decide ;

Since such, alone, the nobler Strain declare,

For *old fought Cocks* deceive the nicest Care.

To

To crown your Judgement, and your Art display
With more Succefs ; this juſt Remark obey ;
Let ample Store compleat your warlike Strain,
And undiſturb'd in private Walks remain ;
Till adverſe Foes, by Valour prompt conſpire
With blooming Spring to wake the martial Fire ;
Since by removing oft they tainted grow ;
For ſuch we find reflect a faded Glow.

Yet chiefly note, e'er you a Contract close,
A single Match, or nobler Main propose,
Reflect betimes, and Rashness ne'er betray
But view your Flock, and strictly take Survey ;
Ne'er on their clashing Heels *alone* depend,
Nor let those flatt'ring Hopes deceive your Friend.
Three Months at least let Ceres' bounteous Hand
Open her Stores, and all her Wealth expand ;

Since

Since half-bred Fowl, if plenteous corn'd we find
Will beat the nobler Game when starv'd or pin'd;
Tho' hand-strew'd Walks oft damp their martial
Fire;

For Cocks so fed inactive Sloth acquire ;

Then those distinguish with peculiar Care
Where ratling Flails re-eccho thro' the Air, }
Alternate sound and thrash the bearded Ear;

Where limpid Streams thro' sandy Cliffs distil,
And grateful Bow'rs o'reshade the murm'ring Rill;

For

For oft we find the Plummy Race resort
 To lonely Shades, and friendly Shelter court,
 When rising Tempests swell the foaming Tide,
 And ruffling Gales o're crack'ling Forests ride,
 Or when the Fields a hoary Landskip show
 Congeal'd by Frost, or spangled o're with Snow, }
 Or when the Dog-Star reigns, and Heats intensely
 glow ;
 When rolling Thunder shocks the tim'rous Swain,
 And dreadful Lightning flashes o're the Plain,
 When

When pitchy Clouds foresnew the ratling Show'r,
 And smoaking down the Skies impetuous pour,
 Whence trembling *Atheists* dread approaching Fate,
 And Heav'n's last Trumpet all disponding wait.

The Heathy-Soil bests fuits the warlike Race;
 For Clay bound Fields their glossy Plumes deface,
 And tillage Walks alone the thriving Poultry grace,
 Where various Ricks of Straw with scatter'd Corn,
 Invite them early to salute the Morn.

Whence

Whence Exercise their craving Hunger fires,
And blooming Health with active Life inspires ;
Which ruddy Look, the sure Prognostick, shows
When o're the waving Plume a shining Lustre glows.
Oft too the Tail, when curling down it fways
Exempt from Pens, a blooming Cock displays.

As Nile's vast Streams at certain Times o'reflow,
The Soil renew, and various Fruits bestow,

So

So blasting Boreas when the Gods command,

At certain Seasons taints the fruitful Land.

Then Muse describing mark the rank Disease,

That does the Poultry Flock contagious seize,

Involving oft with Havock-wasting Pow'r

Whole Broods of Fowl, that stalk the Gran'ry Door.

The noisome *Roop* that from the Norril springs,

A putrid Gore, and dire Destruction brings,

G

Incrusts

Incrusts the Tongue, and all the Surface dies

With livid Taint, that noxious Blood implies,

Which faded Plume and flagging Wings denote,

With gasping, breathless Yawn, and wheezing

Throat,

And sneezing oft, portentous Omen too,

With scale-like Tongue, the sickly Crasis shew,

Which some the Pip define, and idly dream

Impairs the Tongue, and taints the vital Stream ;

Which

Which Plaint from muddy Pool and standing
Lake,

Their craving parch'd up Crops too craving take,

When thirsty Febris swells the sanguine Tide,

And drinks the purple Life that does revolving
glide.

Observe, th' Infection claims your timely Aid,

For swift as Light'ning does the Mischief spread,

Then quickly, from the *Sound*, the *Sickly* part,

Left more they taint, and baffle all your Art,

Since coop'd too close the rank Effluvias rise,

Which oft infect with frothy Streams their Eyes.

This sov'reign Balm and grand Specifick note,

To smooth the Hoarseness of the wheezing Throat;

Green Rue and Sorrel shread, whose mingled

Pow'rs,

Compound with Celadine and * *Sulphur Flow'rs*,

And

* 'Tis necessary to add a little Flower of Brimstone to the Recipe, not only as a proper Ingredient, but also as a requisite Article to form the Mass into Pills.

And recent * Cream from neighb'ring Dairies
brought,

By curious Art to due Consistence wrought,

O'th' former Three a just proportion'd Share,

With Pondus Omnium of the Last prepare ;

In artful Pills of mod'rate Nutmeg size,

Which soon I've found retrieve their gasping Lives;

And which alternate Night let each receive,

Nor idly hesitate but timely give,

When

* Fresh Butter.

When weak Digestion curbs the thriving State,

And drooping Life imparts a languid Heat,

Receipts abound, but this I most approve

To stop the spreading Taint, and all their Ills re-
move.

Propitious Nine, again the Bard inspire,

Tune my rapt Soul and aid the warbling Lyre.

Sublime in Verse remark the sanguine Plain,

The hostile Combat, and the various Slain ;

With

With martial Fire the diff'rent Scenes display,

And image all the Beauties of the Fray.

Distinguish'd note where rang'd in circling Rows,

The spacious Ring superior Sportsmen shows.

Where Pride eclips'd no more her Infl'ence fways,

But social Freedom spreads her chearful Rays,

Where Dukes and Lords the grand Diversion crown,

Like Phœbus shine, and dart Refulgence down ;

But

But hark the Drum! th' approaching Combat
shews,

Whose grateful Sound the waiting Crowd pursues,

When lo! distinguish'd Sportsmen born along

With mingled Crowds, the Pit promiscuous throng,

Where various Bets engage their utmost Care,

As diff'rent Parties diff'rent Fancies bear,

Till Stakes requir'd unstring'd the Purfes pour,

From various Fobs disclos'd, a Golden Show'r ;

Thus

Thus circling round the glitt'ring Guineas fly,

As various Odds become the gen'ral Cry,

And * *Five to Two* the nice Advent'ers ply ;

Now Hope and Fear attend their dubious Fate,

Which various Sportsmen with Impatience wait ;

H

Who

* Five to two is a common Bett with the Groom Porters, when the Cocks on both Sides are judg'd of an Equality, against naming the Side which wins the two following Battles, but if either Party be judg'd superior to th other, their Bett is then Five and a Half to two against the weakest winning two together.

Who discompos'd now chide the Feeder's Stay,
When lo! they come, and murm'ring clear the Way,
Stride o'er the Pit with blooming Verdure spread,
For Elegance and Use commodious made,
To shew the Marks that adverse Sides require,
Which quells Debate, and fooths the kindling Ire;
Yet flush'd with Spleen, and red'ning with Surprise,
Unbag the Fowl, to feast their longing Eyes.

Now

Now hostile Rage each daring Foe maintains,
 And Death as Fate inclines alternate Reigns,
 In various Shapes the missive Blow appears,
 And dire Destruction 'midst the Conflict bears ;
 Now purple Life unloads the turgid Veins,
 And gushing down the crouded Circus stains,
 Or stagnates, swells the Throat, and vital Air re-
 strains,
 Contending Sportsmen now repining sit,
 Whilst anxious Fear surrounds the gazing Pit.

As Death inclines and Fate impels the Blow,

These gayly smile, and those indignant glow ;

Oft times the Brave a fatal Darknefs mourn,

And stalking round, their Necks distorted turn,

Enrag'd to meet the Foe, now peck the Ground,

Rise at their Breasts, and spurning dart a Wound,

Now fractur'd Bones unnerve their warlike Pow'r,

And now the vanquish'd on their Pinions cow'r ;

Yet

Yet oft when *Chanc'd* a swifter Exit share,
Dart from the Foe and spring aloft in Air,
And whilst the Crowd attend their dubious State,
Down, down, they fall, and soon resign to Fate.

As curious Artists diff'rent Skill disclose,
The various Weapon, diff'rent Temper shows,
Whose Length and Form indeed we various find,
As diff'rent Fancy sways the Sportsman's Mind ;

Yet

Yet by Experience taught the *longest* Size,

And those which bending from the Socket rise,

Superior Judges most distinguish'd prize ;

Now curving Points too soft a Temper bear ;

And now too hard their Brittleness declare ;

Now on the Plain the treach'rous Weapons lye,

Now wing'd in Air the shiver'd Fragments fly ;

Surpriz'd, chagrin'd, th' incautious Feeders gaze,

And * *Smith* alone, ingenious Artist, praise ;

The

* Mr. Thomas Smith, near Katherine-Street in the Strand, being allow'd the most curious and noted Maker of Silver Cock-Weapons.

The Valiant now in vain assail the Foe,
And fix'd as Fate no sad Reluctance show,
But tho' disarm'd still meet the Victor's Ire,
Glow with Revenge, and in their Wrath expire;
Now prostrate lye extended on the Glade,
Th' insulting Victor trampling o're the Dead.

Yet, gen'rous Muse, with mild persuasive Art,
Transpose the Scene, and play the friendly Part;

Whene'er

Whene'er contending Parties clam'rous jar,
And Bets disputed swell the verbal War,
Let sage Reflection calmer Thoughts inspire,
Compose the Discord, and reclaim their Ire;
By Candour sway'd ye Sportsmen hence restore
The passive Mind, and rude Debate give o're,
Submit to Ref'rence and contend no more:
For shou'd precarious Fortune smile or frown,
Let social Converse your Diversion crown,

Nor

(61)

Nor Party-Feuds foment, rekindling Strife,

But bring the with'ring Olive back to Life.

F I N I S.



WILSON
COLLECTION
Lincoln.

(60)

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